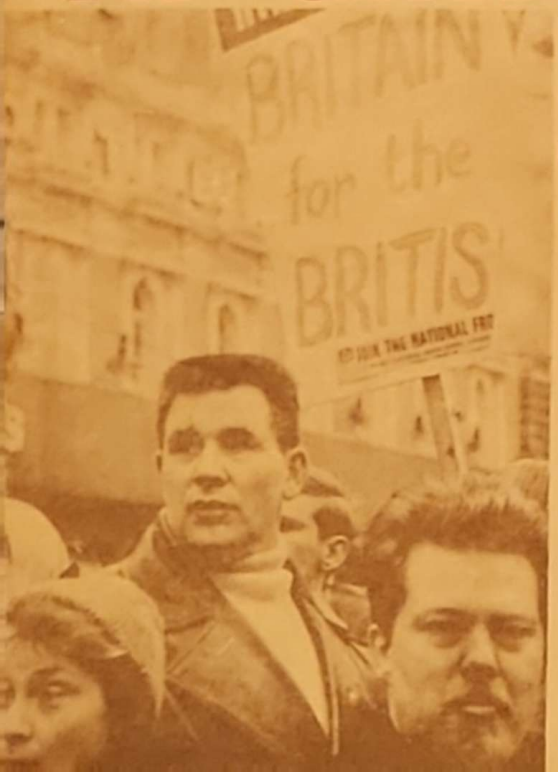
ONE SHILLING

challenge

exposes the national front

its aims...



...its members

it's not a very pretty sight

One of the ugly features of the past few years in Britain has been the emergence in public life of an outfit styling itself the National Front. As our "Challenge" report shows this has been formed out of right-wing and pro-fascist groupings and has been making a bid for respectability. Despite this scenes of violence on left demonstrations and threats to individuals have been attributed to NF supporters.

We know that the real threat to democracy and working people in Britain comes from Powell and the pressure his brand of Toryism is bringing to shift official Conservative policy to the right. In the wake of the respectability lent by Powell's views to outright racialism, however, extremist outfits like the National Front are thriving. "Challenge" presents this depth report on their leaders, history and policies. Our reporter is Brian Bates.

Recently Martin Webster, activities organiser and self-styled intellectual of the National Front, stated that the NF should not be labelled Nazi and that he and the leadership of the NF should not be judged on their past records. He said that his membership of Colin Jordan's National Socialist Movement was brought about by "youthful inexperience" and a great mistake.

A closer look at the policies, activities and leaders of the NF may show this view to be naive to say the least.

The National Front makes immigration one of the main planks of its policy. In a leaflet headed "Stop Immigration" the NF say 2½ million Afro-Asians are in Britain and that their continued influx is leading to and will worsen the housing, employment and educational problems.

It is not a new idea to pin the blame for a country's economic difficulties on a national minority.

In pre-war Germany the Jews were the target for hate. When the Nazis came to power in 1933 they passed anti-Jewish laws. People's minds became conditioned with hate, national German superiority and a belief that every race except the Aryan race was inferior. This led to the horrors of the "final solution" with the death of six million Jews in extermination camps like Belsen (pictured below).

It is interesting to note now that in East Germany all fascist ideas and ex-Nazi leaders are suppressed. But in West Germany too, many Germans see through the new would-be Fuhrer Von Thadden's cloak of apparent respectability. Protest demonstrations of students and workers chased his neo-Nazi NPD off the streets. Despite the endorsement of his policies by the ruling Christian Democratic Union, the NPD received a derisory vote in the recent German elections. We must be as vigilant in Britain, and ensure that it could not happen here.

Policies built on super nationalism and racialism, like those of the NF, always lead to catastrophe.

The objects of the NF include support to British communities overseas to maintain "civilisation" in lands threatened with a "reversion to barbarism". They want a British world system based on "white superiority". Defence against "barbarism" means protection of the white minorities ruling in countries like South Africa or Rhodesia. Not many people need to be told that apartheid in South Africa means: the enrichment of a small minority by the brutal suppression of millions of Africans. The barbarism comes from the white minority that the NF wants to defend.

The NF calls for the repatriation of non-white immigrants. They want to "preserve our British national stock in the United Kingdom to avoid inter-racial strife!" Such talk is reminiscent of super nationalism leading to "final solutions". Hate is whipped up by basing policies on national differences.

A sidelight on the attitude of NF activities at the time of its foundation can be seen by this extract from a letter to the "Kentish Gazette" from Gerald Rowe their Kent Organiser—

"What is a membership requirement (for the NF) is that applicants are of natural British/European descent through both parents." **None of yer blacks or mongrels for the National Front.**

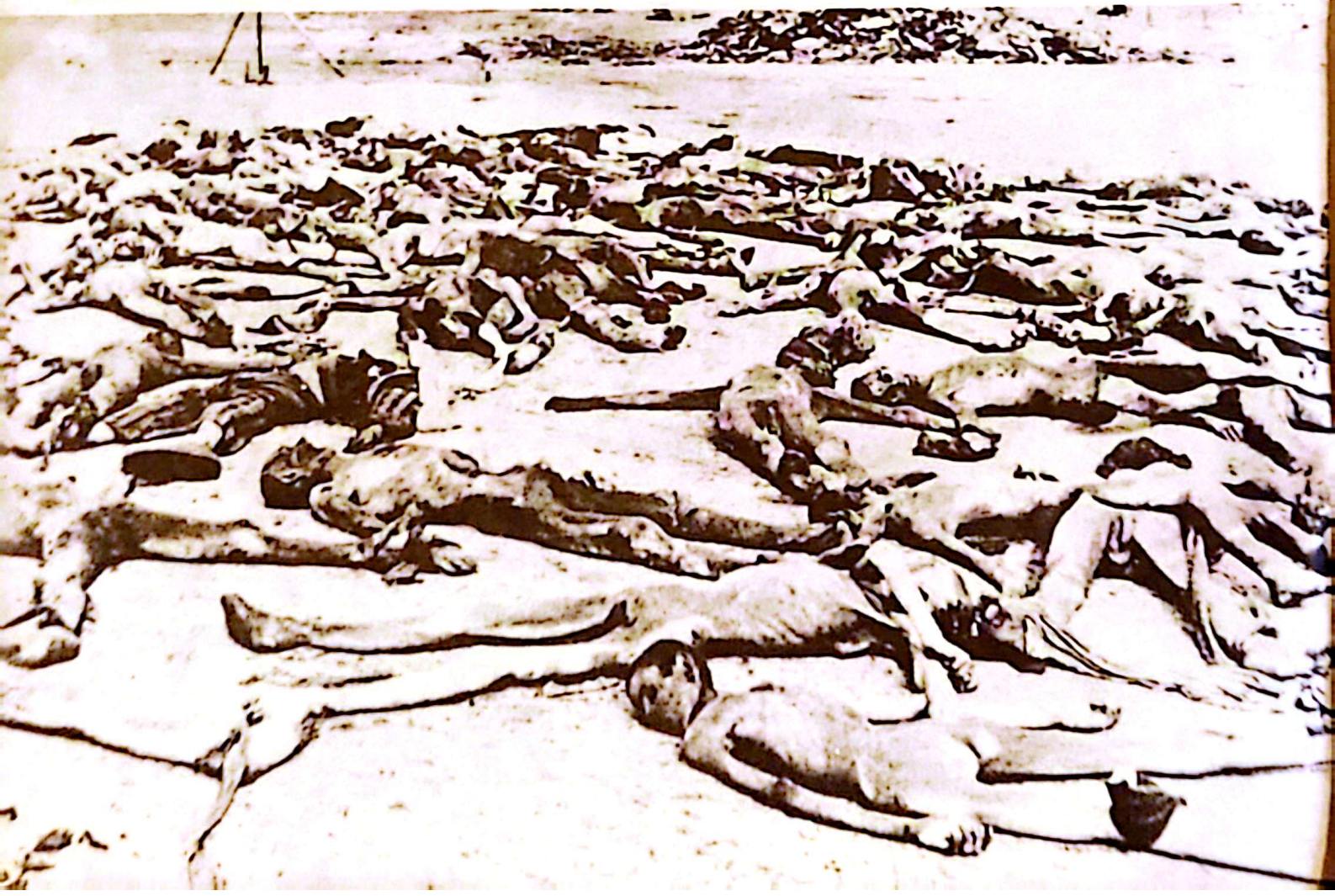
Rowe goes on, "our intention is to become the government in order to carry out our policy."

We have been warned!

One of the first NF activities was to tar and feather the monument over Karl Marx grave. Hardly the summit of political thought, but at least a backhanded compliment to Communist ideas.

During the recent attacks on the Ilford squatters by Barrie Quartermain and his mob, a report appeared in the "Ilford Pictorial" by Mick Tems:

"When I emerged from the house, the bailiffs saw me and tried to attack me. They swore violently when I showed



CHALLENGE EXPOSES NF

a press card. At least two of them were wearing National Front badges.

Barrie Quartermain himself was a visitor to Sir Oswald Mosley's flat in London, as well as being an associate of Mosley's Union Movement Northern Organiser when he operated from Manchester.

It seems that in spite of official opposition to violence, many rank and file members of the National Front turn a blind eye.

A. K. Chesterton, NF leader shows his admiration for apartheid when he claims through his links with the Candour league of South Africa and Rhodesia to have launched the overland oil supply to Rhodesia in defiance of sanctions.

The incident at the Walthamstow by-election meeting when Arthur Bottomley was kneed in the groin demonstrated the tactics of some of their supporters—below the belt so to speak.

If the NF is not to be labelled Nazi or Jew baiting or race hating then some of its more prominent members need to give account of themselves.

A. K. Chesterton joined Mosley's British Union of Fascists in 1933. In 1934 he was brought by Mosley to work at BUF headquarters. After the war he became editor of "Candour", the organ of the League of Empire Loyalists which opposed the "scuttling of the Empire" and was pro-colour bar and anti-semitic.

Michael Passmore, a prominent NF member, appeared before a court in Karlsruhe, Germany, after handing out photographs of Hitler with the caption "He was right".

Another prominent member with a past to live down is Admiral Sir Barry Domville. In 1937 he founded an organisation called "Link" to propagandise against war with Germany. The Home Secretary in 1939 said that "Link" was an instrument of the German propaganda service. During the war Domville was interned under the defence regulation 186. He interpreted this act as part of "the Jewish plot for world domination". Domville was a personal friend of Hitler, Ribbentrop, and Himmler as well as other leading Nazis.

The editor of the NF magazine "Spearhead" John Tyndall has had quite a heady political career in the past ten years.

He was at one time a member of the League of Empire Loyalists which he left to form the National Labour Party in June 1958. The NLP was active in Notting Hill during the racial disturbances in September 1958. The NLP later merged with Colin Jordan's White Defence League in 1960 to form the British National Party. In 1962 Tyndall and Jordan were expelled from the BNP and formed the National Socialist Movement whose programme included: The liberation of Britain from Jewish control; the protection and improvement of the Aryan predominately Nordic blood: only Aryans to be members of the nation and citizens of the state; all non-Aryans to be gradually deported; all sexual relations with Aryans prohibited and all existing mixed marriages to be dissolved; the establishment of a National Socialist authoritarian form of government; folk socialism and the rejection of both capitalism and communism and class warfare, fermented by the Jews on which they are both based; radical reform of the educational system to make it an effective instrument for social harmony, national unity and National Socialist good citizenship; a compulsory National Socialist Youth movement culminating in a period of national service. The NSM issued a broadsheet entitled "Hitler was Right" which stated "democracy means Jewish control, national decline, racial ruin. Hitler raised Germany from the depths of democracy . . ."

Tyndall left the NSM in 1964 to form the Greater Britain movement, which was even further to the right and whose programme advocated measures to "prevent procreation on the part of all those who have hereditary defects". Tyndall has been quoted as saying "the Jew is like a poisonous maggot feeding on a body in an advanced state of decay".

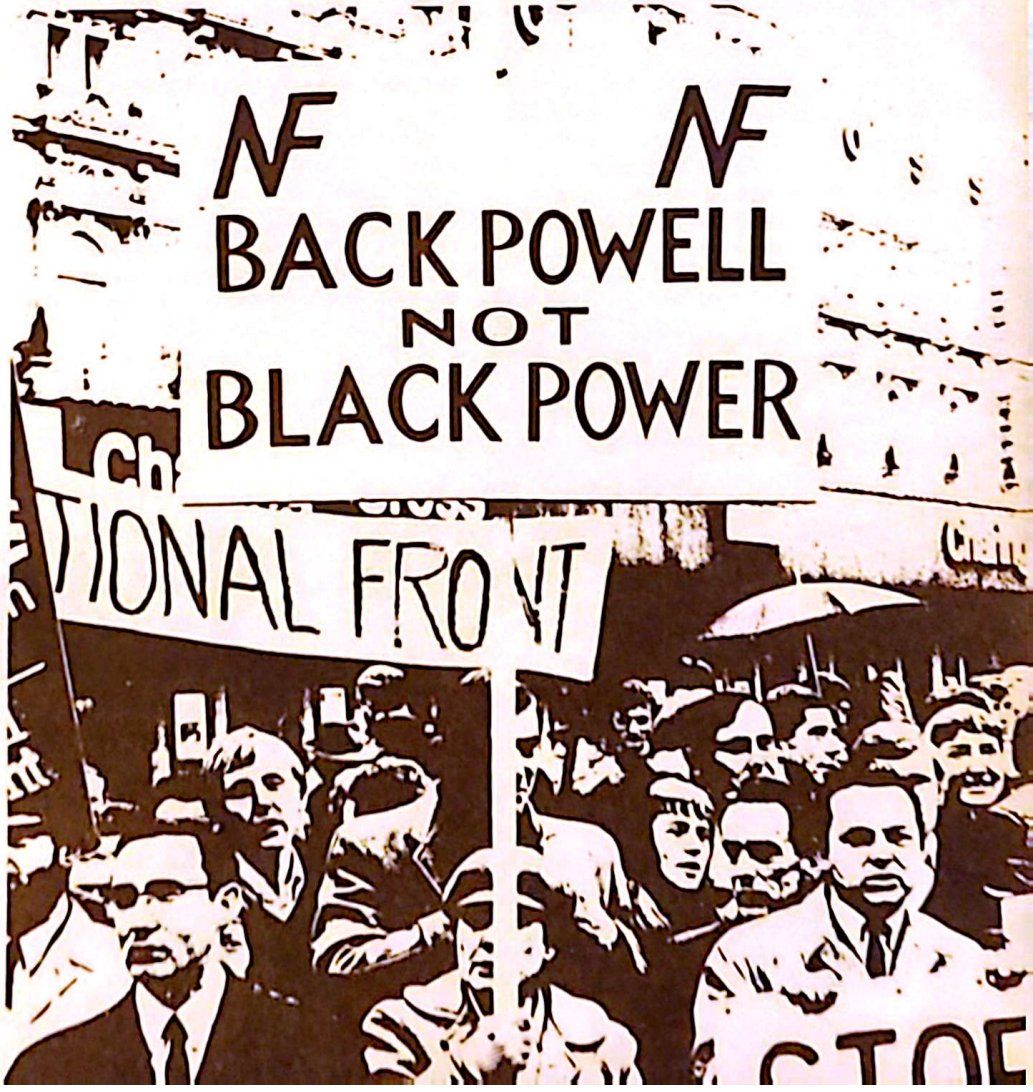
A leadership with a record as the one outlined, plus a policy based on white superiority and a membership, often ready to ignore "official" pleas for non-violence, is what makes up the National Front.

It would seem beyond belief that a sane, rational person could go along with such people and policies. Unfortunately the fermenting of racial hatred, and the irrational minds which promote it, can know no limits of reason or responsibility. It is true that Hitler's power was based on the support of big German capitalists. He used anti-semitism to win the support of the people and confuse the working class movement.

Our capitalists are not yet in such a state as to be ready to finance fascist organisations in Britain. The job is more effectively done for them by the Tories, Powell and their collaborators in the Labour Party. Even so we should not be complacent; the British people need to throw off racialist ideas and unite to fight the influence of Powellism and the National Front.

Where racialism or super nationalism has won, human dignity and decency have disappeared. In the Nazi-occupied countries of Europe before the last war, in South Africa and Rhodesia and the Deep South. From the horror camps of the Nazis to the murder at Sharpeville and the Klu Klux Klan lynchings; all in the name of racial superiority.

Today is the time to fight this sick philisophy of hate.



The best team of young footballers in Newham are all black. . . . . .

This, in a London borough where the National Front are a noisy nuisance and where within 48 hours of Enoch Powell's first anti-immigrant speech, a local Indian store had its plate glass window smashed.

But on the football field these things are forgotten as the Carribbean Internationals have won a sporting respect which can't help but have at least a sub-conscious positive effect on race relations.

Football is perhaps the last true property of the people. However, as last year's Chester Report on football pointed out; "The major problem of youth football is the no-man's land between leaving school and joining an amateur club in the district . . . One moment the boy has the organisation, stimulus and facilities provided by his school, the next he is sent out into a world in which no suitable provision may exist to meet his needs."

With the incentive of "trying to prove something", as one of the junior team players put it, the Carribbean Internationals did get together, form a team and kick-off. They've only been together a short time this being their second season.

The average age was 17.

Origins: "The black kids who played together in the park or at the youth club in Manor Park. All they wanted, first of all, was to play football," explained mother Marge who is an important driving force behind the team itself and its past successes.

All she and her husband had to do was get the boys organised.

"I scrounged the money—£30 off my boss—for kit, registered in the League and that was it!"

Her husband Arthur, the tactician and the only one with any sense of discipline, and this in short measure, started training the players on a Tuesday evening . . . until they started winning when training to them seemed to become unneccessary.

The reception from other teams has always been friendly. No-one's ever said, "here's that bunch of bloody niggers", insists Marge.

"There's no bother mainly because we presented and maintained a good standard of football."

I spoke to two of their regular players Kenny Skerrett and Donald Pitters, both fifteen.

TH: How do you feel about playing in an all-black team as opposed to a mixed team?

KS: We get a sense of security. If you play for an all-white team, you feel left out, whereas with an all-black team you are all one big family and you play with more enthusiasm.

DP: I used to play for a white team, everyone calls for the ball at the same time, and it makes you jittery, but in the all-black side you're all mates.

KS: When I played for a white team, it was always me who made the mistakes, even if I was nowhere near the ball.

DP: I don't mind who I play for really, I just want to play football . . .

KS: I don't care either, but given the choice . . . with an all-black team you are trying to prove something. When you win the Cup and the League you're showing that coloured people are capable of doing something without depending on the rest of the whites. And there's the enjoyment of being part of an all-black bunch.

Marge chipped in here and insisted that they would not have won anything if they hadn't been an all-black team.

The Caribbean Internationals don't have a limited horizon. The impetus of the football team has brought plans for a complete youth centre of which the football will be just one part. As a result of getting together for the football, there grew a unanimous feeling for an all-embracing youth centre with coloured teenagers as the hosts and based on the black way of life and culture which would be open to all. And very important—as Marge stresses—would give the kids an identity.

Both Donald and Kenny feel strongly that the club must be mixed which Marge qualifies by stressing that they won't make a big effort . . . "why should we?" Kenny would like it mixed "if white kids take part in something constructive". And there's plenty of room for that. The council have given them permission to set up a proper youth club, and the kids themselves have earmarked an old factory down the Mile End Road as their centre.

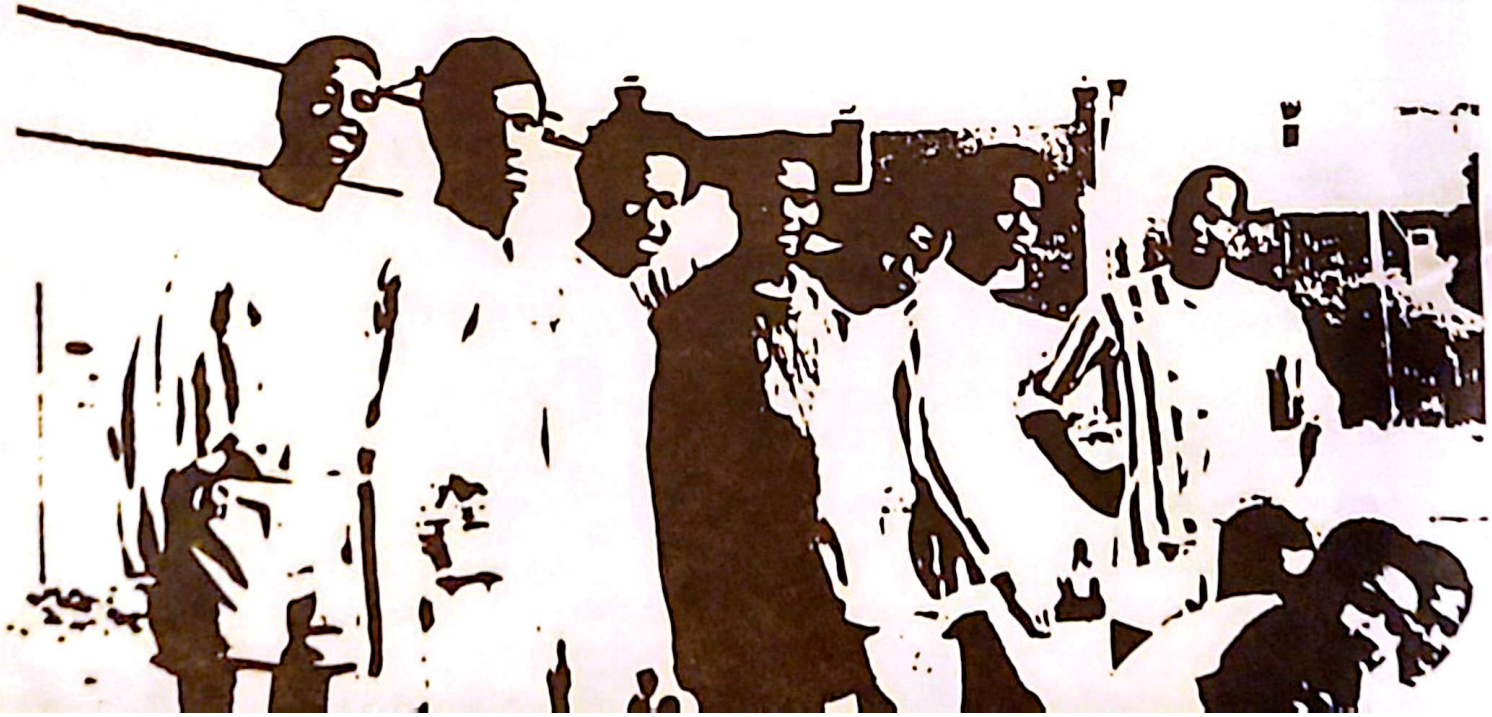
They boast it has eight rooms and a cobbled yard. I added that it also had five holes in the roof.

They have planning permission to do the place up, and now await formal granting of the tenancy.

In an area where phone boxes are constant victims of white and black bother-boots, Kenny makes the point that "if the black kids take part in doing this place up, they'll show more respect for it".

High ambitions from a casual start.

Trev Hyett



JOIN THE GREEN BERETS AND GET AWAY WITH MURDER

You have to feel sorry for ratface Nixon. One year in office and the Vietnam millstone is still hanging round his neck. There's nothing happening on the Vietnam scene to give any comfort to the Wall Street–Pentagon complex. The Hanoi-ologists who predicted the collapse of Vietnam after the death of Ho Chi Minh are disappointed.

On the battlefront US casualties are now nearly 40,000 killed and hundreds of thousands wounded. The desertion rate is over 53,000 a year. Draft resistance is increasing. A strong movement against the war has developed amongst the soldiers themselves. Reports are heard of battle-weary GIs refusing to fight the NLF.

John Wayne's Green Beret whitewash film looks more like a sick joke now as a small part of their murderous activities are revealed. A murder charge against seven Green Beret commanders was hushed up and withdrawn on the orders of Nixon himself.

You've all heard the stories of show biz stars out in Vietnam to entertain the boys out there. Sounds as wholesome as corn on the cob. But a Senate investigation heard witness June Skewes tell of Mafia-like syndicate of sergeants who demand girls as well as money from entertainment agents to book stars. These clubs are hundred million dollar business. "It's as filthy a racket as I've heard of. The profits come from the pockets of American GIs."

The Vietnamese still suffer massacre bombing of the South running at a higher rate than ever. But they fight back and this year formed a Provisional Revolutionary Government recognised by many countries as the legitimate government of South Vietnam.

Nixon was partly elected through the discrediting of the LBJ war and hopes of him ending it. His honeymoon is over and the Americans are showing their disillusion.

October Gallup polls show no less than 57% of Americans want a total withdrawal from Vietnam by 1971.

A national Vietnam Moratorium Day held on October 15th gave an idea of the size of protest. Supported by a united Vietnam movement, by Edward Kennedy and Eugene McCarthy, the Republican Mayor of New York, Lindsay, ordered official recognition. This meant official flags at half-mast and church bells pealing as protest against the war. Student boycott of classes, trade union support, mass rallies and even a peace meeting supported by Democratic businessmen on Wall Street were huge successes.

Some in Britain seem to believe the Vietnamese have won already. The reality is that, despite the growing bankruptcy of US policy, our government still gives its support. Even the government of capitalist Sweden is sending economic aid to North Vietnam.

A group of Young Communists met Dan Quang Minh, Moscow Ambassador of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam. Through them he urged "the whole progressive youth movement in Britain to intensify its efforts to secure the British government's dissociation from the US war in Vietnam".

Let us face the fact that so far in 1969 we just have not equalled in Britain what the NLF fighters have achieved in Vietnam. November will be a good time to rectify that.

the Editor

Nov. 12: Trade Union Lobby of Parliament 2 to 8 pm House of Commons. For TUC policy on Vietnam.

Nov. 15: March of Death. Organised by Group 68 Americans in Britain against the War.

Nov. 23: Mass Vietnam Demonstration. All US troops out Now. End Britain's Support of US War. Recognise PRG, Victory to NLF. 1.30 pm Hyde Park. March via Embassy and Downing Street to Trafalgar Square Rally. Speakers include Vietnamese and ex-GI from Vietnam.

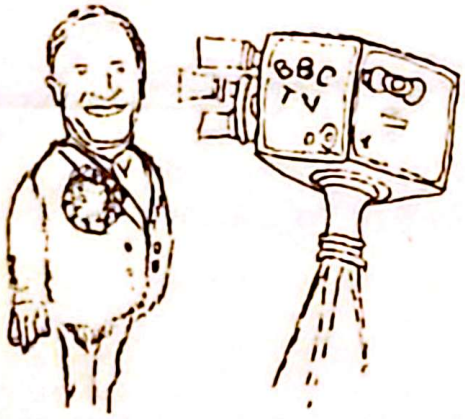
14·2·53

Were you born before this date

If so, you too can have your name on the Electoral Register.

This is a list published by the local council of everybody entitled to vote. With your name on this list you may vote in local elections and, every five years (or even more often) in a General Election.

'So who the hell wants to vote for Wilson or for Heath the teeth?'



To a lot of people, just as all coppers are one thing, all politicians are liars. Or if they are not liars, then they are fools playing at Right Honourable charades, while the real power lies with the big industrialists and the international bankers.

Obviously there is a lot in this point of view. But if this is the whole story, why has it been such a battle through the centuries to increase the power of Parliament and reduce the power of the monarch? Why has it been such a long and bloody battle to get the vote for every adult man and woman? Why were the Levellers in the 17th Century imprisoned? Why did troops attack a peaceful demonstration for the vote at Peterloo, Manchester, 150 years ago? Why, today, do we find Tories fighting a last-ditch stand against votes at 18?

Throughout our history the ruling class has tried to stop people getting the vote. Like the radicals and socialists, the ruling class knew what it might be used for—as a weapon to bring down the government and the state machine and replace it by the power of the people.

For many years the Young Communist League fought for votes at 18 (and was the first organisation to do so) because we think young people have a right to take part in deciding the policies of the country.

Having the vote will enable young people even more to force fresh ideas into politics.

And they *can* do it. On average there will be 3,500 people under 21 able to vote in each constituency at the next General Election due next year. Altogether 6½ million people, who were too young to vote in the 1966 election, will be able to vote at the next one—around 10,000 in each constituency. And all of them between the ages of 18 and 26, members of what is reckoned to be a rebellious generation.

These millions have, as yet, no voting habits. They could easily decide the result. Every political party will be contending for their support.

Giving the vote to the 18 to 21s is one of the few election promises the Labour Government has kept.

But there is a danger that many of those who should go on the register will not be put on. People have not yet grasped that youngsters who are only 16 must be entered on the form. **Yes, sixteen.**

The publicity given to this by the Government has been pitiful, although we are now getting some TV ads. Many people don't even know that votes at 18 is now law.

Young Communists in the schools, colleges and factories are doing their best to make sure that *everyone* eligible to vote is on the electoral register.

It is now law that people may vote from their 18th birthday.

The new electoral register comes into force on 15 February 1970 and stays in force until 14 February 1971.

During October every household will receive a form from the council. On it should go the name of everyone living there who is 18 or over, or who will be 18 by 14 February 1971.

If they are not yet 18 their birthday is noted, and they can vote from their 18th birthday.

The provisional register is made up from these forms.

It will be on display in council offices and public libraries from 28 November to 16 December. If a name has been left out by mistake, it can be corrected during this period.

Make sure you get your vote, and make sure you use it well.

Paul Olive

Vote as red as you can

Two million people under the age of 21 will be voting in the General Election next year.

That is a major victory for our generation. We must not underestimate its importance, and we must use our new political power to best effect.

Quite apart from the long campaign of the Young Communist League, later joined by the Young Liberals, Young Socialists and others, the 18 to 21 age group has definitely earned the right to vote.

They have been more active politically than any other group in the population.

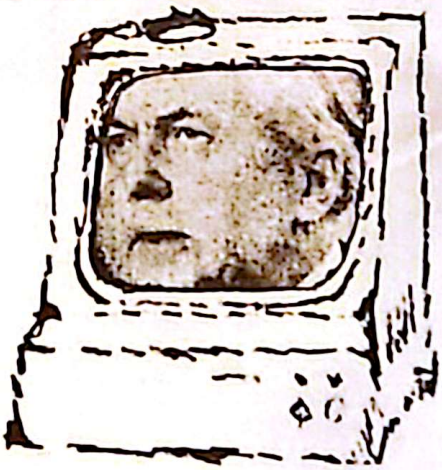
The battle for students' rights, to get the Americans out of Vietnam, for a solution to the world hunger problem, against racialism, against Barbara Castle's anti-trade union laws, in all these struggles 18 to 21-year olds have been in the thick of the fight, and more often than not, they were leading it.

Unfortunately there will be many young people who will not use their vote. Some will be the daft sort who 'Don't know', or don't *want* to know. Others will listen to their dad moaning that 'They're all the bloody same', and stay at home on polling day.

There are others—and these are the ones this article is mainly addressed to—who have already decided that Parliament is all a big con trick, useless except as a mirage to make people think we have a democracy. These people are usually socialists, who consider that revolution will never come through Parliament.

Well, in part, they are right. Their contempt for what Parliament has become, and for the slobs—like Wilson—who abuse it, is very healthy. But to dismiss the whole thing as useless, or as a dangerous trick, is wrong and weakens the struggle for socialism.

To reject Parliament and the right to vote because of what they have become,



is like rejecting the whole Labour and trade union movement because it is at present led by Wilson.

Wilson is not the head, heart and soul of the Labour movement. It is made up of millions of trade unionists who must one day sack their tubby twit of a leader, together with his policies. And those millions are the force which will carry through the revolution to socialism.

Just like the Labour movement, Parliament is full of contradictions. It is a mixture of good and bad, from which we must use the good.

It is perfectly true that millions of people are tricked into thinking that we have a perfect democracy merely because we have the right to choose a new government every 5 years or so.

In most constituencies our hard-won right to vote is worth precious little. There are three candidates: Tory, right-wing Labour and Liberal. All three stand for their own brand of capitalism. Like brands of soap powder, they differ slightly in price and in packaging, but they all just make a load of bubbles.

Labour made a come-back in 1964, with millions hoping that new mops and brooms would sweep clean. But they have been splashing around with the same old dirty water the Tories left behind after 13 years of misrule.

It is true that the power of Parliament is becoming less and less.

For one thing there is the power of the Civil Service. Government ministers are frequently shuffled around from one job to another. This makes it almost impossible for them to know their jobs deeply. They have to rely on the Permanent Secretaries —high-born ex-public school Tories—who hold their hands, write their speeches and make their policies for them.

Governments may come and go, but the Civil Service and the Diplomatic Service remain the same—the same men and the same policies.

Apart from the faceless men of the state machine, there are the giant monopolies, which are whittling away the powers of Parliament and using it for their own ends.

The importance of a Tory MP is measured by how many company directorships he has. And once a man gets elected, there is a queue at the door offering him positions in businesses who want a spokesman and a defender of their interests.

The old folk, the homeless and the poor have few champions in the House of Commons, but there are plenty plugging for the banks, landlords and employers.

Even the Cabinet is losing a lot of its power, especially to the international bankers who openly tell the Government what it can and cannot do. And little Cabinet committees, sitting over brandy in posh London clubs, often make the effective decisions. Our so-called 'defence' policy is probably decided at weekend shooting parties of armaments manufacturers, retired generals, top civil servants and a couple of tame ministers.

Even the left-wing MPs have not been an organised group. They have relied on speeches and clever points of order in Commons debates, rather than helping to mobilise people outside in order to put pressure on the Government.

In view of all this, some socialists, whose talking runs a bit ahead of their thinking, say we should have nothing to do with Parliament. They scorn communists for—as they falsely accuse us of saying—wanting to get a revolution through the ballot box.

Firstly, we do not think that a 51 per cent vote for socialism would automatically bring the revolution. It's a whole lot more difficult than that.

Secondly, there is a problem which these anti-election socialists do not solve. What do they suggest should be done with Parliament?

The House of Commons, as the supposed law-maker in the land, was a product of a revolution 300 years ago, which involved bloody battles and the execution of the king. And the vote for all men and women over the age of 21 was not finally achieved until 1930.

Most people understandably regard the right to vote in order to elect Parliament to be a fundamental democratic right. It is fascists and dictators who take away the right to vote. So it must strike many as very peculiar to hear some socialists suggesting that the vote is useless and that Parliament should be done away with.

We must not allow the present state of British democracy to blind us to what it could become.

With the right kind of MPs—communists and genuine socialists—the House of Commons could be a real battleground. They would have no respect for the hobbling, medieval procedure, and they would have no time for obstructionist civil servants and for attempts to buy them off.

But Parliament must be considered as only a part of the enormous struggles that will be needed to end capitalism in Britain.

We want to break down this idea that you vote once every five years and then leave it all to the politicians. We want to have *everybody* being a politician. An MP may be the best speaker in the world, but his eloquence will not defeat the power of the ruling class. He needs the support of the people outside Parliament —storming the place, if necessary—which he will get so long as he represents their views.

MPs, along with officials of the trade unions, tenants organisations, youth movements and political parties, could act as leaders of the millions of people whose active struggle is the one thing that will bring socialism to Britain.

Make no mistake about it, if the might of the giant banks and corporations is to be defeated, it will need general strikes and demonstrations, the like of which has never yet been seen.

These struggles may well centre around Parliament. Certainly, at present, most campaigns, whether on wages, housing, peace or pensions, centre on the House of Commons.

That is why it is important that MPs are as effective as possible in supporting the demands of the people.

Therefore vote as red as you can at every election. If there is a communist, vote for him. If there is a good Labour candidate, vote for him. But no matter who you vote for, whether he wins or loses, make sure he earns your support by what he does for the people.

Johnny Satyricos

YCL

I wish to join/have information

name

address

post to YCL
16 King Street, London WC2

Christmas is one big fiddle...

At least get a kick out of it. Visit the youth boutique at the Morning Star International Bazaar Indian Mirror pendants, bell rings, wooden beads, kaftans, ponchos, and 100's of unusual gifts.
Camden Town Hall, Euston Rd, London, NW1
Nov 20, 21, 22. Thurs 6 to 10
Fri 12 noon to 10, Sat 2 to 9.30

DUMP THE LUMP

The story of the notorious "Lump" system of hiring labour hit headlines nationally as subject of a TV play. But the lads on the building site at Thamesmead in Woolwich have been on strike to defeat the system. It is a system condemned by building employers' organisations and the government but is allowed to flourish.

Dave Anderson, YCL'er and shop steward on the site, gives some of the reasons why.

The Thamesmead development will cost £200,000,000 and will take fifteen years to complete. It is the largest project of its kind in Europe. It won awards for design and planning and is a prestige site for the British building industry. When it is finished it will be a complete township with homes for 60,000.

There is a battle between Cubitts, the main contractors, and the union organisation, because Cubitts know that what we win now, they will have to operate for fifteen years. When 1,500 workers are involved, this is big business.

Bonus earnings are low and this has been the subject of most of the battles up to now.

But over the last few months more and more "Lump" labour has been appearing on the site, i.e. the use of self-employed sub-contractors. Rule 8 of the Working Rule Agreements allows labour-only sub-contractors on the site, and our demand is to get rid of this rule.

Anyone concerned with the future of the building industry recognises the need to remove this rule. In their cut-throat competition with each other these pirates of the "Lump" undercut each other at expense of working conditions won by trade union organisation on the site. The rate for the job itself is threatened as often they break the law by paying no tax, insurance, SET, holiday stamps, etc., and thus can be an attractive proposition for the employer.

All the building unions have lost members as a result of this practice of "make a fast buck and don't worry about conditions".

Although the government officially disapproves, though all the time they were eager to impose laws attacking trade union activity, they could not find time to bring in a law to smash the "Lump".

The action of the lads at Thamesmead in October we hope will be the start of a movement throughout the industry at all levels, including official action, to rid us once and for all of this crippling disease.

POSTERS

Lenin Marx Ho for 6s post free and lots more besides. Send for list of posters badges YCL publications to YCL Boutique
16 King Street
London WC 2

RUBBISH

1969 will go down in the history of the working class movement as a year in which rank and file trade unionists took on a system and won.

It began with the whole establishment trying to outlaw strikes and curb union activity, and has ended with impressive victories for militant trade unionism using the strike weapon where necessary.

"Challenge" gives the background to two recent strikes. One against the notorious "lump" system in the building industry; the other a revolt of the lower-paid for a share in "affluence".

France, Germany and Italy have also seen new waves of strike action on a huge scale.

"Challenge" salutes the ordinary men and women of this world who are sick of being talked at by the high and mighty and told to sacrifice for the sake of greater profits. We especially welcome the growing involvement of young workers in industrial action for their rights—militancy is not just for students. "Challenge" says now is the time for us to demand the rate at eighteen, along with the right to vote and be considered adults.

And if it means militant action to get it, then "Challenge" will be for action every time.

Strikes occur for many differing reasons. But one widely misunderstood fact is that it is the higher paid, better organised workers who are most ready to fight for better wages and conditions. The October strike of London's dustmen showed that workers, often the subjects of jokes and jeers, can also be as determined and militant.

On a basic rate of £15 9s. for one of the dirtiest, most thankless jobs in the community, the dustmen out for a £5 rise smashed a gaping hole in the incomes policy. On the way they proved that the boast of the Labour government that an incomes policy would help low paid workers was a lie. It was militant strike action which won the increases conceded of up to 15%.

The piling up rubbish and pervading smell of rotting refuse brought home a truth to many people. That in a highly developed industrial society, every worker plays an indispensable part. So that whenever one group or section strike, society is threatened with chaos.

The only ones who aren't missed when they go on holiday are the shareholders, landlords and bankers.

The dustmen's strike received more public sympathy and support than most industrial action. Perhaps because everyone could see and smell what a rotten job they do, and how much they are needed. The bulk of suburban housewives and their spouses wouldn't do the job for £30 a week, let alone the £20 dustmen are demanding.

Although nationally they only got between £2 and £2 10s. towards their demand, the battle will be on at local level for better bonus payments and productivity deals. "Challenge" wishes them, and all workers doing society's dirty work, every success.

NW

small ads 2s a line

Read Cogito, issues on Czechoslovakia and Trotsky still available. Theoretical journal of the YCL. 2/6 post free, 16 King Street, London, WC2.

Assistance needed for Challenge market research. Contact Naomi Burgess, Challenge, 27 Bedford Street, London, WC2.

Penfriends. We have many requests from abroad, especially from readers in Czechoslovakia and Hungary, for penfriends in Britain. If you would like a penfriend, write in giving name, age, address, interests, preference of country and enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Challenge Penfriend Service, 27 Bedford Street, London, WC2.

Folk Workshop, Ladbroke Hotel, Ladbroke Grove tube. All welcome especially singers. Adm 2s 6d. Thursdays 8.30. Resident: Gasworks.

Cedars Folk Workshop. Every Friday Albion pub, Hammersmith Road, W14. Adm 1s 6d.

BIT INFORMATION SERVICE. Information any time. 229 8219.

Poster—Children's Rights. 48" x 36". 2s 6d post free. LCD, 28 Hathersage Road, Manchester.

Anti-Enoch Posters. I'm all white Jack/ Powell at Prayer/Not Here Enoch. 2s each inc postage. Challenge Publications, 27 Bedford St., London, WC2.

THE DAILY SCHEDULE OF BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH TRANSMITTED OVER RADIO BUCHAREST

Valid from May 5th, 1968

FOR EUROPE

Hrs. GMT	Metres
13.00-13.30	16.81; 19.67
19.30-20.30	19.67; 25.13
22.30-23.00	25.13; 31.28

FOR NORTH AMERICA

Hrs. EST	Metres
20.30-21.30	19.50; 19.67; 25.13; 25.24; 25.40; 31.28; 31.35
22.00-22.30	19.50; 19.67; 25.13; 25.24; 25.40; 31.28; 31.35
23.30-24.00	19.50; 19.67; 25.13; 25.24; 25.40; 31.28; 31.35

Hrs. GMT
01.30-02.30
03.00-03.30
04.30-05.00

FOR THE PACIFIC AREA

Hrs. GMT	Metres
06.30-07.00	16.81

FOR ASIA

Hrs. GMT	Metres
15.00-15.30	16.90

FOR AFRICA

Hrs. GMT	Metres
15.00-15.30	16.81; 19.50; 25.40

16.81 m = 17,850 kc/s — 25.24 m = 11,885 kc/s
16.90 m = 17,750 kc/s — 25.40 m = 11,810 kc/s
19.50 m = 15,380 kc/s — 31.28 m = 9,590 kc/s
19.67 m = 15,250 kc/s — 31.35 m = 9,570 kc/s
25.13 m = 11,940 kc/s

BIRMINGHAM FOLK

Wed Nov 12 7 pm 5s
Digbeth Civic Hall
Ewan McColl, Peggy Seeger, Ian Campbell Group, Tiny Capstick, Dave Phillips, The Gaels, Eamon Lowe, Drovers Arms residents and Jimmy Stevenson. Compere: Barrie Roberts.

The Black Dwarf is an offensive weapon.

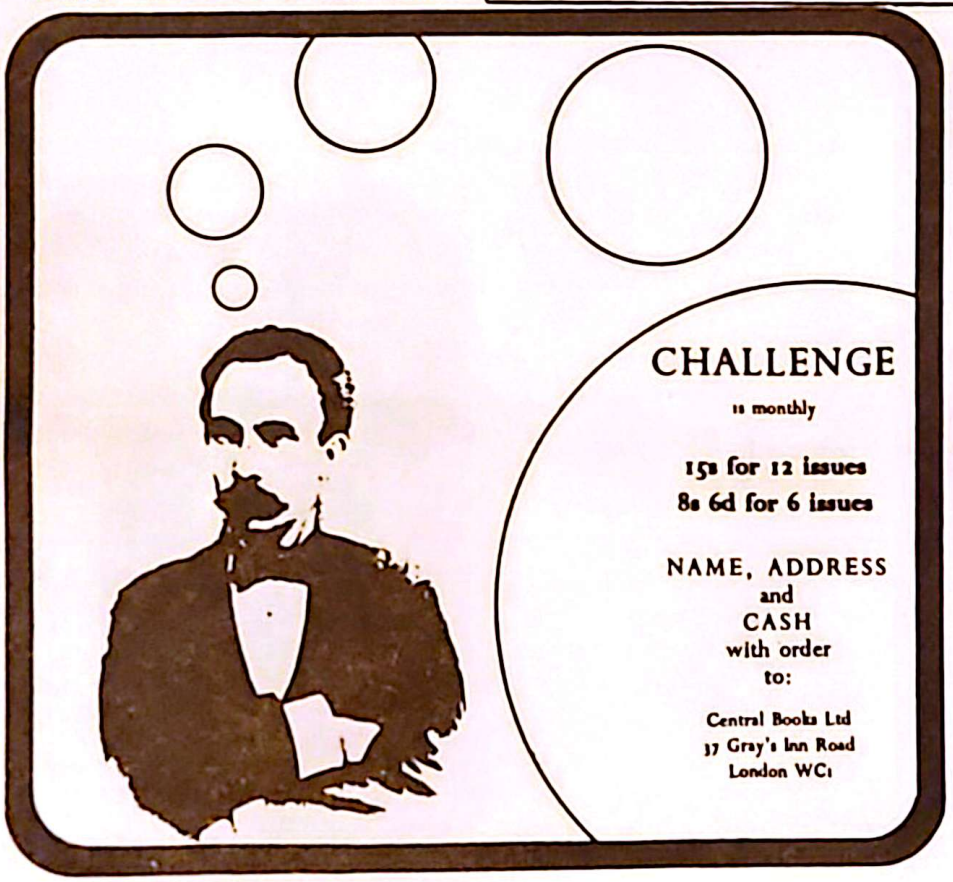
1s 6d.

Farleigh Press

Station Estate
Balmoral Road
Watford

pen friends

Everywhere. All ages. send stamped addressed envelope to:
ALPHA CORRESPONDENCE AGENCY.
30 Baker Street London W1



CHALLENGE

is monthly

15s for 12 issues
8s 6d for 6 issues

NAME, ADDRESS
and
CASH
with order
to:

Central Books Ltd
37 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1

PROTECTIVES BY POST

FREE offer of one American protective with every dozen bought

Durex Fetherlite	14s doz.
Durex Gossamer	10s doz.
Conture	14s doz.

FREE guide and product details:
Verona Products BI 29 Weymouth Mews W 1

Family Planning, Postal Service

	Doz.	Gross
Transyl	7/-	£3
Durex Gossamer	9/-	£3
Durex Supertrans	12/-	£5
Selka Coral lubricated	16/-	£6

Patentex aerosol foam for women, highly effective, fully approved, 18/- per 25 applications.

Qualitron Laboratories (Y1).
52 Earls Court Road, London, W 8

PAPERBACK

Compiled by Vanessa Stokes

Blame It On My Youth
Benny Green
Panther 5s
This new book from Benny Green is called a novel. But the hero is a young jazz writer and sometime musician named Benny Green! And the book has much that is autobiographical. It's probably called fiction to fend off libel suits.

Great characterisation is the author's forte. There is Goldie the newspaper editor who gives Green his first writing job, and who it turns out never sells a paper. Then there is the girl who works for Goldie, and lays herself across her desk for anyone. But she's never had a Benny before. "That practically makes me a virgin."

Davensberg the boastful jazz musician turns up throughout the book. Benny's awe for him turns slowly to pity. Benny Green describes his Jewish youth club and the older Jews who try to escape what they feel is the stigma of their religion by dropping syllabuls from their names. Abraham becomes Braham. Green has no sympathy for them, he calls them the "Jews-soisie".

All this and plenty more. Read it for yourself.
AP

A Picture to Hang on the Wall
Sean Hignett
Mayflower 9s 6d
The last of the angry young men, a classic of its genre. Set in Liverpool in the mid-sixties, the anti-hero Keegan is a failed artist drop-out of the pre-hippy era.

Living on his wits and the NAB (remember that?) his day is filled with tricky problems such as which sequence of pubs to frequent, which bird to knock off.

Regulars of the Liverpool pub the "Crack" might recognise the type but for non-scouse readers the local colour is well done.

Not for the faint-hearted amongst us, Keegan is totally amoral. During the course of the action he has to deal with the problem of laying a bird who is on, while his regular girl is in the family way. The story is climaxed by a grisly abortion scene (as per "Alfie").

Nevertheless this is an entertaining read for a long train ride or a lonely weekend.
HW

Adolescent Boys of East London
Penguin 6s
This is probably one of the best books ever written on working class youth. By avoiding the use of technical language, and relying on quotes from the boys themselves it is also one of the most truthful.

The fact is, that despite greater affluence and a slightly better education, working class youth in East London are basically the same as previous generations. School is not only boring, but the lessons are irrelevant to the sort of work they expect to do when they leave school. Work brings greater freedom and most of the boys say they are satisfied with their jobs. The thought that they will work at these same jobs for the rest of their lives worries them only when they get older.

Leisure time is spent drinking, dancing, going to the pictures and trying to "pick up girls", then they start courting and inevitably marriage.

So this is their life and it can probably be likened to youth all over England. Politics are not mentioned once and this shows the failure of the left to reach the mass of working class youth.
MC

FLIX

A film not to be missed is "Midnight Cowboy" by United Artists and starring newcomer Jon Voight as Joe, "Ah'm a hustler" from Texas and Dustine Hoffman as Ratsy. It is a brilliantly moving story of a big, raw Texan youth doing a Dick Whittington and going east to New York to seek fame, fortune and wealthy whores. To a young man bred on a dubious mother/son love relationship, cold TV suppers in the ice-box and movie money, the harsh reality of the city's twilight world with its neurotics, pot parties, homeless and homosexuals prove something of a shock and sordid adventure to our innocent hero. He is gently initiated into the scene by Ratso, a down and out cripple, who first tricks Joe and then befriends him. Ratso dreams ambitiously of being immersed in Floridian sunshine, surrounded by beautiful women, and through a magnificent swirl of vivid colour, bare bottoms and breasts, blood and squalor, the talents of Joe, "Ah ain't a real cowboy but ah'm a mighy fine stud", are put to good use, and he almost makes it in the end—an end which is as silent as the grave—but that you must hear for yourself.
Madeleine Sutcliffe

An Old Comrade addressing the Youth
Cried, What! You don't read much, forsooth!
Yet it's always been found
That you're better all round
If you read books containing THE TRUTH.

—and here's a list of some of the latest:

MARX AND ENGELS
Selected Works

paperback 30s.

LENIN
Selected Works

30s.

The Open Philosophy and the Open Society
MAURICE CORNFORTH
A reply to critics and a new look at the meaning of Marxism

paperback 30s.

British Foreign Policy and its Critics
ANDREW ROTHSTEIN
Policies that led to two world wars and how honest men opposed them

21s.

Bertrand Russell
JOHN LEWIS
An appreciation and criticism of England's leading and oldest philosopher

paperback 7s. 6d.

Three Works by William Morris
introduced by A. L. MORTON
Contains "News from Nowhere", "Dream of John Ball", "Pilgrims of Hope"—three classics of English socialist writing

paperback 10s. 6d.

Guerrilla Warfare and Marxism
introduced by W. J. POMEROY
An anthology of revolutionary texts from Marx to Che Guevara

60s.

A People's History of England
A. L. MORTON
English history made plain by a famous Marxist historian

paperback 15s.

LAWRENCE & WISHART

FESTIVAL OF FRIENDSHIP '69

Islington Town Hall
Friday Nov 14 8 pm

Cabaret/Speakers/Films/Exhibition/5s

Supported by: African National Congress/Co-op Young Members Organisation/ Connolly Association/Shelter/Anti-Apartheid/Vema/Cypriot Youth Club/Young Oxfam/London Young Communists/National Association of Tenants and Residents/ Rev Trevor Huddleston/Arnold Wesker/Rev Paul Oestreicher
Details: Bob Allen 100a Rochester Row SW 1 01 834 5072

THE MORNING STAR CAMPAIGNS TO GET RID OF THE LOT

Read it every day—order from your newsagent 6d.

CHALLENGE, Magazine of Britain's Young Communists, New Series Number 15. EDITOR George Bridges. ASSISTANT EDITOR Pete Frost. PHOTO EDITOR Tony Nicholls. DESIGN Nick Wright. ADDITIONAL GRAPHICS Pete Hammarling. ADDITIONAL PHOTOS Andrew Eustace, Mike Murray. CIRCULATION MANAGER Nic Benson. ADVERTISING Marion Kavanagh. EDITORIAL AND BUSINESS 27 Bedford Street, London WC2. TELEPHONE 01-836 2151. ADVERTISING RATES full page £25, half page £15, quarter page £8, column inch £1 5s. COVER DESIGN Pete Frost, Nick Wright.

LETTERS

I've seen *Challenge* a couple of times now, and I'll tell you what I like about it—you play it cool.

So you are Communists, but you are also human. You like Russia but you don't talk about it as if it's a little bit of heaven that fell out of the sky one day. You've got a political message, but you don't ram it down people's throats.

Since reading *Challenge* I must be going soft on Communism or I would not be writing you this letter.

Sally Knowles
London, SE9

In view of the recent publicity given by the press to the Schools Action Union, we thought we should explain to the public at large some of the petty and excessive rules that operate in Preston Manor High School (Wembley).

One of the most stupid rules is that talking is forbidden not only in morning assembly but also in the corridors to and from assembly. Even a whisper is often punished by a three-quarters of an hour detention.

Whenever the headmaster enters a classroom, even just to speak to the teacher, all the students must stand until the head allows them to sit. The effect of this is to make the pupils feel inferior, and to have an image of the head as some sort of godly figure, instead of someone who helps us to further our education and intellectual capacity.

Some punishments are taken to an extreme. Some boys have been suspended from school for such trivial offences as having their hair longer than the head wishes. We do not think the head has any moral right to tell pupils how they should wear their hair. Long hair, provided it is clean, harms no-one. One member of the Upper Sixth, who was a regular member of the school cricket team, was prevented from playing in a match against the parents and was replaced by someone with "respectably" short hair, who was not of equal ability.

The sixth form, which the headmaster needs in order to raise the intellectual reputation of the school, are granted privileges which could easily be extended to the rest of the school. The sixth form alone are allowed to wear black jackets, instead of the blue ones which the other form members have to wear. They are allowed, if they wish, to stay in the school during the lunch hour, and have facilities for recreational activities, such as table-tennis, darts and cards, which the rest of the school do not have.

We are not against these privileges as such, but they could easily be extended to the rest of the school.

During recreational periods, girls and boys are separated into their own playgrounds, thus the school cannot claim to be fully co-educational.

The third, fourth and fifth forms (there are no first or second forms) have to wear a special blue blazer obtainable only from a well-known Harrow store, because of their special colour and badge. Because of this monopoly the store is able to charge exorbitant prices for relatively poor quality blazers, which seldom last more than nine months.

The religious part of the morning assembly is a farce. Only the choir sing the hymns and only about two per cent of the school takes part in the prayer. We are sure that this is the case in other schools and so there is no need for a religious assembly.

Under these conditions democracy and freedom are being suppressed in schools. Headmasters should not be surprised that organisations like the Schools Action Union are gaining rapidly increasing support.

Members of the Sixth Form
Preston Manor High School

As an ex-teacher who tried for years to get contraceptive advice included in human biology courses for third year classes in various schools I welcome Deny Baruch's series on the subject, but I am disappointed, not to say alarmed, that she gives credence to the old wives tale that a sheath protects from venereal disease. As the British Army of the Rhine, and other armies too, no doubt, discovered to the cost of its men, this is a fallacy. As one well known MO remarked at the time "those 'fuckers' could get through a Wellington boot" and as regards the spirochaetes and syphilis this is certainly true.

No person should labour under the delusion that he or she is safe from infection if a sheath is used.

Pauline Robinson
London, SE23

PS Impregnation with a germicide was found to be of very doubtful use, in spite of claims to the contrary by manufacturers.

I'm a young housewife and I want to know if decimalisation is just an excuse for massive price increases?

In our local Co-op launderette in Charlton an average family wash cost 2s 6d plus 1s 6d for 21 minutes drying time.

Now all the machines have been altered to take the new 1s or 5np coins. A wash now costs 3s or 15np and to get the same amount of drying time costs 2s or 10np for 24 minutes.

This means that a washing outing now costs 5s or 25np as opposed to 4s—an increase of 25 per cent.

At the same time I haven't noticed a 25 per cent increase in my husband's pay packet.

This sort of thing must be going on all over the country—have any other readers got examples?

Marion Brooks (Mrs.)
Charlton, SE7

CZECHOSLOVAKIACZECHOSLOVAKIACZECHOS

Among the Communists throughout the world who opposed the invasion of Czechoslovakia are the Young Communists of Britain. We gave full support to the new policies of the Czechoslovak Communist Party when it was led by Alexander Dubcek.

We find now that the situation there has deteriorated and the youth of Czechoslovakia are rejecting the new Party leadership and its new line. The danger now is that this will lead to rejection of the Communist Party and socialism itself.

The demonstrations this August have been folowed by the removal from office of Dubcek and his main supporters, including Dr. Vokhroulicky, leader of the Czechoslovak Youth Federation and president of the International Union of Students. The Central Committee endorsed the invasion and new "emergency laws" which can take away civil liberties have been passed.

Like the invasion these actions too can only alienate the people, especially the young generation.

The invasion was a violation of agreed Communist principles, which were re-iterated at the International Communist Conference this year.

To help win back the confidence of Czechoslovak youth in the socialist, democratic and independent future of their country, we call for a repeal of the emergency laws; an end to the removal of Communists who supported the Action Programme and other reforms; the withdrawal of Soviet troops and an end to interference in Czechoslovak affairs.

This is the design on the front of the 1970 membership card of the Young Communist League.

1970 is the year of the centenary of the birth of Vladimir Lenin, the outstanding leader of the twentieth century.

In April 1970 "Challenge" will be producing a special Lenin issue graphically illustrating Lenin's life, his ideas and the world revolution which he began by leading the Russian peasants and workers to power in 1917.

We are launching a "Challenge" Project to prepare the material for this. We need artists, photographers, designers, writers, researchers. If you think you can help contact us straight away.

We also appeal for any readers who may have photographs, drawings, posters, cuttings anything in fact that might be of use about Lenin.

We are also launching a special fund aiming to raise £150 to ensure that this is a really fabulous issue.

JVS

agro at the office

There's a load of bother at the tiny Covent Garden office of "Challenge" magazine. Reason? Lack of loot is holding up some of our development plans.

We are pleased to say that we have overcome some of our production problems which bugged us earlier this year. We now appear monthly and on time. We now have a full-time worker. We have a keen design team. A new circulation manager. Our sales are going up—when people get the chance to buy.

Congratulations by the way to some of our sellers. Like Manchester YCL who sold 300 of issue 14 in the first weekend. And Panyi from Islington who sold 62 with a friend in two days. And branches of the YCL like Greenwich who sold 160 of issue 14 in the first week.

But we want to do much better.

A better quality production, better coverage of what young people are doing and talking about. We want more reports from outside London. **All this needs money. Money that can only come from you, our readers.**

We reckon we are the best youth political magazine in Britain. We have a record second to none in the thirty-five years of our history.

Did you know, for example, that "Challenge", from its very first issues was campaigning for votes at 18?

It took over 30 years but we are pleased to say we won.

Challenge was the first youth magazine to campaign for the defeat of the Americans in Vietnam. With more help from us, the Vietnamese can get their victory soon.

Help us to fight more effectively by sending in a donation to the Fund, c/o Challenge, 27 Bedford Street, WC2.

KISZ me quick!

KISZ the Hungarian Kommunista Ifjusagi Szovetseg has invited Challenge to sponsor an exchange holiday in summer 1970. Two weeks in England, two weeks in Hungary. Cost includes travel, sightseeing, food and accomodation.

COST England £15
Hungary £38
Both £50

Also next summer Challenge workcamp in the German Democratic Republic.
3 weeks including one weeks holiday.
COST £30 approx

Watch out for more details of these and other CHALLENGE HOLIDAY events in future issues.

SUE EARNS £14

Office work is still the fate of most girls leaving school.

Challenge sent out a team to find out their wages, interests and outlooks and to see if there really was any great difference between the glamour of London and the more mundane life of Bradford, for an office girl.

In Bradford we talked to 16-year-old Valerie Taylor who is an invoice typist in a television shop. She had been to grammar school, she told us, but after failing her GCE's had become disheartened and left school. She went on to learn typing at night school. She preferred college, "you were treated like an adult there". Now she wants to learn shorthand as well to get a better paid job. At the moment she works a six-day week, 8.45 to 5.30, with two afternoons free. For this she gets £6 with £2 10s. going straight to her mother. She doesn't think this is too much as there is no canteen at work and she goes home to lunch. Her mother paid for the fortnight's holiday in Devon she had with her boyfriend and another couple.

Valerie says she is only able to afford to spend one or two pounds a week on clothes which she buys in C & A and boutiques. More expensive clothes come as Christmas or birthday presents.

Ice skating and swimming are her main interests because, she told us, there is very little else to do that she can afford.

We met Sue Marsden, a 17-year-old shorthand typist, during her lunch hour in Holborn, where she works for an insulating firm. She had left secondary modern school at 16 with three GCE's and shorthand typing qualifications. For a five-day week, 10 to 6, she takes home £14. In addition she gets luncheon vouchers.

Sue was a typical "dolly" bird, had just returned from a three week holiday in Majorca which her parents had paid for. She likes London nightlife, not

VAL EARNS £6

the "Underground" Roundhouse scene, but fashionable discotheques such as Samantha's, Birdland and Scotch. There she meets her boyfriends. Most of her wages go on shoes, bought at Sacha and Ravel, or clothes, from Biba, Bus Stop and Way In, and expensive make up.

She says her job is boring but the wages are good.

The startling differential in wages for these girls does not lead in practice to a difference in their way of life, how they spend their money nor their ambitions.

Both seemed to feel that marriage was the next stage in their lives, but not just yet. Neither girls had even heard of a trade union for their job let alone considered joining it.

Sue's thoughts on politics: "dunno about that"—Valerie from Bradford was a little more positive. She said she was very much opposed to war and thought the Americans should get out of Vietnam.

Moral is that those unions responsible for getting better wages and conditions for young office girls have a lot of rethinking to do in presenting an image that girls like these, typical of most, can identify with. The same of course goes for youth movements on the left.

AT THE SAME JOB

BEATLES ABBEY ROAD

The sixties are ending: the Beatles are getting old. Their qualities may have tarnished a little through living the unreal life of the famous, but there is still nothing better. Even their psychedelic bad moments were overcome even if the **Magical Mystery Tour** remains a mystery.

However they have re-oriented since then, leaving behind a wasted double album which could have been great had not the good songs been thrown in with Revolution Number 9 and family.

In the first they did a very simple thing. They brought rhythm back to pop and used as many voices as they had group members. Soon after they became self-contained by writing all their own words.

Their new album is **Abbey Road,** the road which links Lord's to Cricklewood NW2, and which houses the EMI studio frequented by the Beatles.

Of the sixteen tracks, most are equal to anything they have turned out to date.

George Harrison's friendship with Eric Clapton is evident and has obviously been beneficial. A few years ago George was instantly recognisable with his Rickenbacker twelve string and his superb solos during the **Hard Day's Night** and **Help** era were maintained in short supply. Unfortunately he faded with sitars cramping his style.

But George is back now and really quite clever and colourful.

Harrison's guitar and Lennon's outlook may change, but Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr go on for ever.

Paul's bass playing has always been very free, serving its purpose precisely and not laying down mundane patterns as so many others. Paul also takes over the drummer's seat on some tracks I'm told.

Come Together. Part two of the **Ballad of John and Yoko? I am the Walrus** elaborated? John's plea to the world? Whatever, a knockout arrangement.

Something. Good pop love song from George, with a pretty melody and better than average lyric.

Maxwell's Silver Hammer. Vaudeville form, anti-serious content with Billy Liar overtones. **Fool on the Hill** whistle jogging along in the background.

Oh! Darling. Good ol' nostalgia with Fats Domino, The Drifters and The Diamonds joining forces to give Paul a wail of a time.

Octopus's Garden. Adults' child song inevitably by Ringo. **Yellow Submarine** was good.

I Want You (She's So Heavy). The Beatles aren't a blues group but they show more real blues feel than many British blues bands . . . particularly by their parallel and interchangeable use of guitar and John's vocal. Completed by a long boring riff which you get used to and which builds up like **Bolero.**

Here Comes the Sun. Pretty intro . . . nice optimistic song.

Because. Sarcastic. 'Because the world is round, it turns me on, because the wind is high it blows my mind'. Lovely lonely sound with George, Paul and John illustrating their vocal tapestry-weaving that made them so unique.

You Never Give Me Your Money. It all goes to show, give something a good arrangement and it doesn't matter what the quality or quantity of the words.

Sun King. Reminiscent of **Don't Let Me Down.** Heavy harmony and a religious feel. Spanish tinge with something about parasols and carousels.

Mean Mr. Mustard/Polythene Pam/ She Came In By the Bathroom Window. These three are all run so treated together. It seems that these are the Beatles attacks on some of our human frailties. Pam boasts a recurring Pete Townshend type guitar phrase, with the first few bars of vocal sounding like Mothers of Invention. 'She came in', etc., seems to have centred around the line 'she can steal but she can't rob . . .'

Golden Slumbers. Nothing.

Carry That Weight. Mixed in with **Golden Slumbers** it too is nothing other than catchy. **Hey Jude** riff.

The End. Paul telling us 'Her Majesty is a pretty fine woman' and 'someday I'm going to make her mine'.

It is interesting to note that the Hollies who hit the spotlight shortly after the Beatles are the only other survivors of the Lancashire domination of the mid-sixties. Graham Nash, an integral part of the Hollies, has taken his own touch to America where he is partly responsible for giving momentum to a subtle change currently taking place in pop.

Away from the 'heavy' a reaction to the mass take-on of psychedelia; toward the gentler, truer sounds of good acoustic music and the restrained, disciplined electric music and the key, a strong inventive rich-textured vocal harmony. The Beatles and the Hollies were the modern masters of pop harmony taking the pioneering work of the Everley Brothers so many steps forward.

On **Crosby, Stills and Nash,** one Byrd, one Buffalo Springfield and one Hollie, a great album comes dangerously close to a flop. Steve Stills lyrics are at fault.

However the vocals more than compensate and allow us to enjoy Nash's songs, Stills' guitar and the vocal and instrumental intertwining of all three.

Talking of acoustic guitars leads to Joni Mitchell. Two years ago in obscurity, now in wealth. Her songs are recorded by the famous and she is made. Her second LP **Clouds** ties everything together. It's been said before that Miss Mitchell, originally an artist, paints her lyrics. She also plays a truly complementary guitar which she tunes to her own purposes and which gives greater adventure to her explorations, stories and mysteries.

Clouds contains at least two songs made popular elsewhere. **Chelsea Morning** which was brought to the surface by Fairport Convention and **Both Sides Now** spotlighted by Judy Collins.

The desire for a less bastardised sound is the happy result of folk music, which in America, like the bee, injected its soul at the expense of its life. The dividing lines are thin . . . that is if you want them to exist at all. Five years ago Joni Mitchell would have been a folk singer, like Bob Dylan. Likewise when Crisby Stills and Nash turn acoustic they would have been eligible for **Country Meets Folk.**

And the Beatles influenced them all and have been at the top end of introducing real words and strong tunes to the charts.

This will perhaps be their greatest musical contribution of the sixties.

We'll see.

MICK LOWE

Published by Challenge Publications, 27 Bedford Street, London, W.C.2 (01-836 2151), and printed by Farleigh Press Ltd. (T.U. all depts.), Watford, Herts.